

**Montana Oil Pipeline Safety Review Council
November 15, 2011, 9:00 – Noon**

Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present:

Richard Oppen - DEQ, Mary Sexton – DNRC, Tim Reardon – MDOT.

I. Welcome by Chairman, Richard Oppen

Chairman Oppen opened the meeting with introductions of Council members and the public attendees. General comments were made regarding the agenda and the duties of the council.

II. Approval of Minutes from August 3, 2011 meeting

The minutes were approved without edits.

III. Work Status update

- A. Nat Carter, Department of Environmental Quality, demonstrated the Geographic Information System status regarding mapping elements available from the Department and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) data. The pipeline information is mapped, locations of river crossings of all stream sizes are identified and inspection information is entered as it becomes available. The pipeline attributes (such as ownership, commodity, construction characteristics) are available via dropdown menu within the system.
- B. Chris Hoidal, PHMSA, presented information regarding the series of inspections conducted over the last few months on the largest river crossings and many smaller crossings in the vicinity of the large ones. Specific “at-risk” sites were identified and the plans to correct them were discussed. The Powerpoint presentation is publicly available. The discussion included an explanation of abandonment procedures (cleaning of lines and filling with nitrogen), management of pipelines that may be planned for bringing back into service, the sharing of pictures of “at risk” sites, the heightened awareness that is the result of the Silvertip line oil spill, the high level of responsiveness by industry in assessing their lines and engaging in rapid repairs and the need to conduct repairs so that lines are protected from rupture before the next spring runoff. A number of lines need work to provide clear lines of sight inspection for the right of way. PHMSA is prepared to move forward with necessary enforcement actions if “at-risk” line exposures are not mitigated. Some discussion ensued regarding how PHMSA addresses the type of mitigation needed, the unique analysis needed for each individual situation, and the determination of the corrective action.

IV. Technical Information Sharing

There were presentations regarding technical tools available to address monitoring and management of pipeline safety. Powerpoint presentations are publicly available.

- A. TerraEchos and UM Flathead Lake Biological Station partner, Alex Philp: Advanced Sensor Systems: Helping Monitor Critical Infrastructure

Mr. Philp presented information on the fiber optic monitoring system available to monitor stream bed load movement and how it could be used to alert pipeline managers of scour risk in high water.

- B. Instant Voice Alert system, Tony Verna (will be presented by staff on behalf of Mr. Verna)

Ms. Lovelace, DEQ, presented Mr. Verna's offer, to the State of Montana, of a software and system to be used by emergency responders for alerting citizens of an emergency. The system allows "on-the 'fly'" messaging to smart phones and conversion of a typewritten message to voice.

- C. Integrity Solutions, Bruce Beighle: Oil Pipeline Risk Management

Mr. Beighle provided information on the types of analysis currently being conducted for risk management of pipelines. The presentation covered detailed analyses of monitoring and site characteristics, including the levels of risk and how the analysis drives corrective measures.

V. Public Comment

Opper announced the public comment portion of the meeting. No public comments were made.

VI. Future Meeting Agenda Items and Schedule

Opper suggested that the next meeting date be in early February when PHMSA expects to have additional information on the mitigations of the "at risk" sites and to address the need for mitigations before spring runoff. Also, a discussion of regulatory tools available for management of pipeline safety will be on the agenda. The exact date is not yet determined.

VII. Adjournment

Opper adjourned the meeting.